

election of Doug Wilder in 1989, our state made great strides toward healing the painful past for all Virginians.

Black History month is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the many contributions African Americans have made to the United States. Looking back over the history of Virginia and realizing the great things that have been accomplished often under harrowing conditions, I am hopeful for the future. Virginians and Americans can do much more for the greatness of our state and country if we take time to find out about one another and then more forward with respect to achieve greatness together. The Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History has chosen Black History Month 1999 to be time to reflect on the theme "The Legacy of African American Leadership, for the Present and Future." Virginia has a rich history of Black leadership that I am positive will portend a future of continued excellence.

#### TRIBUTE TO KING HUSSEIN

##### HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 24, 1999*

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor King Hussein ibn Talal al Hashem, a courageous leader and close U.S. ally who lent his stature as the Middle East's longest-serving leader to the service of peace. A wondrous achievement for any man, but even greater because it was accomplished after decades of struggle and at great risk to his standing among his neighbors and his own people. His death from cancer lost to Jordan a beloved king who brought stability in the face of great obstacles and lost to the world a man who in his final years worked tirelessly to leave behind a legacy of peace in his region.

When King Hussein was crowned in 1953, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan was a collection of Bedouin tribes—today it stands as a model of stability in the region with democratic freedoms unknown to most of the Arab world. His 46 year reign was an astonishing feat of survival. King Hussein dodged at least five assassination attempts, numerous coups, the loss of a significant portion of his land, and, at critical points during his reign, miscalculations that sparked the ire of his Arab neighbors and the Western world. Yet he emerged in his later years as a wise voice for moderation in the region, using his wealth of experience and status as elder statesman to prod Israel and the Palestinians towards the ultimate goal of peace: a process which he had seen as necessary for the survival of his country and the region as a whole.

King Hussein had come to realize that his country's survival was inextricably linked to the fate of the State of Israel. His years of secret talks with Israeli leaders facilitated what would eventually become the first "warm" peace between Israel and an Arab country. I had the opportunity to participate in the White House signing of the 1994 peace agreement between Jordan and Israel, and was struck by King Hussein's courage in signing the agreement in

the face of opposition by his Arab allies. The warmth of the handshake between the King and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin illustrated the genuine friendship that had grown between these two great leaders, and launched a relationship that should serve as a model for relations between Israel and her other Arab neighbors.

Since 1994, King Hussein spent enormous amounts of energy to broaden the peace by bringing a settlement to the Israel-Palestinian peace process. During the Hebron negotiations in 1997 and again at Wye Plantation in 1998, the King's presence made the difference between success and failure. While undergoing cancer treatment last fall, the King put his health at risk by traveling from the Mayo Clinic to the Wye Plantation at the request of President Clinton, who knew that only the King could inject that strong dose of reality necessary to remind the negotiators of their purpose. Cajoling, and sometimes scolding, the participants, he urged them to look beyond their petty differences and accept the compromises that would bring a brighter future to the region.

King Hussein will be remembered throughout the world as a man of honor, a man of wisdom, and a man of peace. I would like to express my sincere condolences to the family of King Hussein and the people of Jordan—your loss will be felt worldwide. I would also like to reaffirm our commitment to close relations between the U.S. and Jordan, and send my best wishes to King Abdullah, who has the strong support of Congress and the American people as he embarks on the leadership of his country and builds on the legacy of his father.

#### THE REINTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL URBAN WATERSHED MODEL RESTORATION ACT

##### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 24, 1999*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I reintroduce the National Urban Watershed Model Restoration Act, a bill to establish a new approach to restoring urban waters. This pilot program, to be administered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), will serve as a national model for the restoration of urban watersheds and community environments. The Anacostia River has been chosen as the pilot river because it is an especially polluted urban river located in the nation's capital that has drawn national attention and thus can lead the way for community-involved cleanup approaches that can be modeled and taken up nationally.

To achieve more focused and rapid action, the new program will integrate the various regulatory and non-regulatory programs of the EPA with other federal, state, and local programs to restore and protect the Anacostia River and promote community risk reduction. EPA is to coordinate its efforts with other federal partners, particularly the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. In addition to addressing a major local environmental concern, this model program will provide a framework for urban

communities around the nation to work towards sustainable community redevelopment and to meet national environmental goals.

Under the new program, EPA shall allocate a total of \$750,000 per year over the next 4 fiscal years to implement the provisions of the Model Program. EPA may authorize no less than \$400,000 annually in the form of grants, which are to be matched on a 75–25 basis with other federal funds and state, local, and private contributions.

The Anacostia River has been my top environmental priority since coming to Congress in 1991. In the 104th Congress, I worked through the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment to authorize \$12 million of construction projects to help clean up and restore wetlands along the Anacostia watershed. I am pleased that the Administration has proposed over \$4 million in the Army Corps of Engineers' FY 2000 budget for Anacostia projects that springs from the original \$12 million authorization.

I am committed to whatever time and effort it takes to restore the river that runs through the neighborhoods of the nation's capital. The bill that I introduce today marks a renewed effort, as well as an innovative approach, to advancing this top environmental priority.

#### IN COMMEMORATION OF FEBRUARY 24

##### HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 24, 1999*

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, on February 24th the people of Cuba commemorate a glorious and tragic date in the history of their country. The 1895 war of independence began exactly 104 years ago; the Cry of Baire constitutes one of the most heroic acts of the Cuban people. Intimately connected with this date is the heroism of Marti, Gomez and Maceo and the thousands of freedom fighters known as mambises who shall forever ennoble the Cuban nationality.

Tragically, February 24th will also be forever connected with the murders which took place on that date in 1996. The Cuban tyrant, ultimately insulted by the courage demonstrated by the Brothers to the Rescue when they dropped pamphlets and other pieces of paper over Havana with pro-democracy slogans and copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights a few months back, ordered the murder of all the men and women who were going to fly on February 24th in civilian planes carrying out humanitarian missions for Brothers to the Rescue.

The Cuban tyrant prepared his murders well. An agent of his by the name of Roque, who had occasionally flown for the Brothers to the Rescue organization, was ordered to return the day before to Cuba. Roque was going to publicly declare after the murders of February 24th that he was a survivor from the mission and that the humanitarian group's planes were taking arms to "Concilio Cubano", a coalition of dissident organizations inside Cuba which had announced its intention to host a public meeting in Havana on February 24th and whose membership was brutally repressed by the dictatorship. Roque

would also announce that the planes had been shot down over Cuban waters.

Additionally, the Clinton Administration ordered that on February 24th, the U.S. Air Force not protect the planes of Brothers to the Rescue.

We all know that Pablo Morales, Armando Alejandro Jr., Mario de la Pena and Carlos Costa were brutally murdered on February 24, 1996. I am sure that those four martyrs of peace and patriotism will be duly memorialized in the democratic Cuba of tomorrow, as they are in South Florida today.

The intervention of the imponderable, of destiny, saved the third Brothers to the Rescue plane which flew on February 24, 1996, the plane flown by Jose Basulto. That intervention of the imponderable made it possible for the world and for history to know that the planes were shot down over international waters, while engaged in a peaceful and humanitarian mission. Roque had to remain quiet and the Clinton Administration as well as the Castro dictatorship had to accept the Helms-Burton Law (with the codification of the embargo, codification being something which neither the Clinton Administration nor Castro ever expected was going to be part of the Helms-Burton Law).

After the murders, there are two obvious questions which need to be answered.

First, why was the order given on February 24, 1996 to the U.S. Air Force that it not protect the planes of the Brothers to the Rescue? In effect, the White House had to have issued a counter order for that day, since a standing order exists requiring the U.S. Air Force to intercept every plane that is detected coming toward the United States from Cuba.

And secondly, why has Castro not been prosecuted for his cold blooded murders of February 24, 1996, even after he admitted to the international press that he himself ordered the murders?

IN MEMORY OF OFFICER STEVEN  
MICHAEL JERMAN

**HON. JOHN E. PETERSON**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 24, 1999*

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, like many communities in my district, Kane, Pennsylvania is a town of less than 6,000. It is a quaint and quiet community where residents share similar values, beliefs and a strong work ethic. Sadly however, Kane residents must now share in their pain, sorrow, and sense of loss.

Last weekend, Kane lost one of its finest individuals. Kane Police Officer Steven Michael Jerman was killed in the line of duty. Officer Jerman was a 23-year veteran of the small-town police force and was regarded with the utmost of respect by all who knew him. He devoted his career to helping youngsters by steering them away from the destructive path of drugs and alcohol. Officer Jerman ran a drug-prevention program which is credited for saving the lives and livelihoods of dozens of teens in the Kane area.

Ironically, it would be the issue about which he had the most passion that would take the

life of Officer Jerman. He was shot and killed by a teenager who got drunk, got behind a wheel and became violent—the very behavior he fought so hard to stop.

This incident, which has devastated the community, is an eerie reminder that drug and alcohol abuse by our nation's youth is all too prevalent. I believe the best way to honor the life of Officer Jerman is for the community, police force, and for family and friends of Jerman to carry out his legacy by continuing the fight against drugs and alcohol among our youth.

My wife Sandy and I offer our heartfelt and sincere sympathy to Jerman's wife and two children for this tragic loss. We also share in the sorrow of the town of Kane and entire Commonwealth.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF JOHN H.  
KELLER, SR., OF LIMA, OH UPON  
HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 24, 1999*

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a true public servant and model citizen on the occasion of his 90th birthday.

On March 12, 1909, John H. Keller, Sr., was born in Lima, OH. In 1927, John graduated from Lima Central High School, where he was president of the Allen County Wheelman—a group of bicycling enthusiasts. He went on to Bluffton College, where he graduated on June 10, 1931. He received further instruction at Northwestern University's Garrett Theological Seminary in Chicago. He married Charlotte Mary Basinger in 1936.

John Keller is above all else a tireless civic participant. He has committed himself to witness and take part in countless governmental meetings which deliberate for the public good and he has served as a board member for agencies such as the city of Lima Tree Commission among others.

From 1941 through 1974, John worked as a brakeman and conductor on the Nickel Plate Road and on the Norfolk & Western Railway. He was an officer of Local No. 457 of the United Transportation Union, and past-president and legislative representative (1950–1974) of Lodge No. 200 of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen.

Mr. Keller has recently retired from the board of trustees of the Allen County Historical Society after five decades of service. Mr. Keller is recognized as a respected expert on railroads. The Allen County Historical Museum's impressive collection of railroad artifacts, records, and memorabilia, reported to be one of the best in the Nation and named the John H. Keller Collection, is a direct result of Mr. Keller's outstanding reputation in his field.

Besides being able to recount much of Allen County's history, John Keller, has been an active participant in shaping much of it for over 80 years. It gives me great pleasure to congratulate him on his 90th birthday and wish him many, many more.

IN HONOR OF MR. BILL WRIGHT—  
DONIPHAN, MO 1999 CITIZEN OF  
THE YEAR

**HON. JO ANN EMERSON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 24, 1999*

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, February 20, 1999, Mr. Bill Wright of Doniphan, Missouri was honored by the local Chamber of Commerce as the 1999 Citizen of the Year. More specifically, Bill was nominated for this recognition by his community because of his lifetime commitment to the Town of Doniphan—which makes this honor that much sweeter.

Bill is well known in his community. He has been a life-long resident of Doniphan which is a small rural community located just outside the Mark Twain National Forest in Ripley County, Missouri. In fact, Bill has not only lived in the same town all of his life, but his home is on the very same spot of the original house in which he was born in 1917. Bill's family history in Doniphan is well established with one of the local parks, the Wright Park along Bill's beloved Current River, was named after his forefathers. Bill graduated from Doniphan High School in 1935 and attended Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri from 1935 to 1937. Having played basketball in high school, Bill continues to be an avid fan of the sport. He is a regular spectator of the Doniphan High School "Don" and "Donettes" basketball. The morning after every game Bill can be heard on the local radio recapping the events. According to Bill, his continued ties to the high school have allowed him to "keep in touch with more school students than he could have otherwise," and he has made bonds that have lasted through the generations.

In addition to his love of basketball, Bill is a husband, a father and a grandfather. He has been married to Louise—who shares his love of basketball—for 33 years, and they have a daughter and a son and six grandchildren. Bill is a lifetime member of the United Methodist Church, where he served several years as the church secretary and where he just finished a year term as president of the church men's organization. He also served 4 years in the Army, where he served a tour of duty in Europe.

I know from personal experience that Bill is a very active and energetic member of his community, and his positive contribution to his community is reflected through the Doniphan townsfolk's nominating Bill for Citizen of the Year. I think that Doniphan Chamber of Commerce President Russ O'Neil best sums up the essence of Bill Wright when he said that Bill "could be counted on for a friendly smile, a handshake and a kind word. [Bill] has been actively involved in Doniphan and the community for many years and has chosen to support activities that would have positive effects on the people who call Doniphan home." Congratulations, Bill. May you, your loved ones, and the people of Doniphan be blessed with many more years of your thoughtful dedication to family, community and country.